

ROCKY RIDGE YURT WINTER GUIDE²⁰¹²

The Rocky Ridge yurt is accessed from the Whoop-Um-Up Park N' Ski parking lot. The trails are not groomed to this yurt. This yurt is a favorite of dog lovers and snowshoers. The yurt is located at the end of a rocky finger ridge, providing a spectacular, 180-degree view to the east, south, and west. This is the "dog friendly yurt", where dogs are allowed in the winter. The rolling terrain around the yurt provides a playground for snowshoers. Snow is usually available early December to mid April.

PLEASE READ THE WINTER YURT MANUAL FOR MORE DETAILS AND HOW TO GET THE YURT CODE.

How to get the code:

By email: judy.ditto@idpr.idaho.gov and the Yurt Coordinator will email the code back to you.

Difficulty:

Beginner to intermediate. The difficulty of the ungroomed trails increases in poor snow conditions and weather. Snowshoeing is the recommended way to access this yurt. If you ski in, climbing skins are recommended for those with heavy packs. Individuals should thoroughly prepare for the yurt trip and travel with someone who has been to the yurt and can readily find it.

Where to Park:

The Whoop-Um-Up Park N' Ski parking lot is 18 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21, just past mile marker 56. An Idaho Park N' Ski permit is required to park here Nov 15th to Apr 30th. Please park your vehicles close together, parallel to the north side of the lot and at the edge of the toilet access. The Department of Transportation snowplow operators become frustrated when they cannot completely plow the parking lot. You should also bring a shovel because you might have to dig your car out or in, in case of heavy snow. Do not park on Highway 21. You should also **bring a shovel** because you might have to dig your car out or in. You can be fined for parking on the highway or not displaying a Park N' Ski Pass.

Remember this is a shared-use lot with snowmobilers.

How to Get to the Yurt:

You will find the trailhead on the south side of the Whoop-Um-Up parking lot. Opposite side of the parking lot to the toilet. You will be following 5" blue shaped diamonds (blazes) on the trees and 4x4 posts. The recommended approach to the yurt is to take the Pilgrim Loop, counterclockwise to the Lower Lamar trail. Follow the sign that says "to Lower Lamar". At the intersection where the Lower Lamar trail starts its loop, stay to your left. Continue following the 5" blue shaped diamonds (blazes) on the trees and 4x4 posts. You will then come to an intersection with a 2 ft yellow shaped diamond (blaze) on a 4x4 post. Stay to the left and follow the 2" yellow blazes for one mile, you will go past a gate on the trail. Continue on that trail about 300 yards and you will see the yurt off to your right located on a ridge past the outhouse.

Elevation Change and Distance:

About 150 feet climbing over 1.75 miles (one-way), there is one moderately steep section. The yurt is actually lower in elevation than the Whoop-Um-Up parking lot.

Dogs:

Dogs are allowed at this yurt year around.

Solar Power:

This yurt has a solar unit with four lights. Please do not change the panel location. Use the lights when needed, turn them off when not in use and at the end of your stay.

Wood Pile:

Wood for the stove is located in a separate wood shed.

Water:

There is no water supply at this yurt. Use the large pot provided to melt snow on the wood stove. We recommend boiling the water for 10 minutes before using.

Special Equipment Needed:

Several members of the party should carry portable snow shovels. Bring two (2) one-pound propane bottles per each night of your stay; a packet of lantern mantles; a roll of paper towels, and keep a snow shovel in each vehicle. **For a list of recommended items for a yurt trip, please read the winter yurt manual.**

Maps Needed:

Idaho City Area Park N' Ski Location Map, Whoop-Um-Up Winter Trail Route to Rocky Ridge Yurt.
(on website)

Other Maps that may be valuable to you:

USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic "Lowman and Big Owl Creek."

Global Positioning System Locations

UTM (in NAD 83): Note UTM's are rounded to nearest 10 meters

Whoop-Um-Up Parking Lot: 11T 0601002 4868620

Rocky Ridge Yurt: 11T 0611080 4867550

Elevation:

Whoop-Um-Up Parking Lot: **5,376 feet**

Rocky Ridge Yurt: **5,338 feet**

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WARNING:

Winter travel and the use of a yurt can be dangerous. Do not undertake yurt trips without careful preparation and a serious discussion of the dangers with ALL members of your group.

REPORT YURT DAMAGE OR MISSING ITEMS TO 208-514-2418 or 208-514-2419

PLEASE, DO NOT FEED ANY WILD ANIMALS.

IT CAN LEAD TO THE ANIMALS CHEWING OR TEARING THE YURT SKIN